

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1311

A resolution recognizing the courageous actions of Pamela Franklin, Brenda Harris Haywood, Beverly Page Ward, Bernadine Price Rabathaly, and the late Ronald Jefferson Webb.

WHEREAS, 55 years ago, in September 1963, four 12-year-old girls walked into Stratford High School and courageously helped desegregate a school of over 1,000 students; and

WHEREAS, after summoning the bravery to walk through a gauntlet of hateful rhetoric, signs and actions by adults, these four students were welcomed into the school by then Assistant Principal Ronald Jefferson Webb; and

WHEREAS, the late Ronald Jefferson Webb became their champion for years to come; and

WHEREAS, initial desegregation in Nashville was met with anger and violence, such as the bombing at Hattie Cotton Elementary School in 1957, but these students knew and appreciated the importance of an equal education; and

WHEREAS, these individuals were part of the force that moved Nashville's toward greater equality for its children in schools; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2018, 55 years after their pivotal actions, the community and Stratford STEM Magnet School – formerly Stratford High School – will hold a Celebration of Character to honor the five individuals; and

WHEREAS, the dignity, honor and character of these five extraordinary individuals will be remembered for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognize and honor Pamela Franklin, Brenda Harris Haywood, Beverly Page Ward, Bernadine Price Rabathaly, and the late Ronald Jefferson Webb for their remarkable actions which helped change the history of Nashville's Stratford High School, for the better.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing and honoring Pamela Franklin, Brenda Harris Haywood, Beverly Page Ward, Bernadine Price Rabathaly, and the late Ronald Jefferson Webb for their courageous actions in September of 1963.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ed Kindall
Member of Council

Karen Y. Johnson
Member of Council